

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 02796 200410Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 SAI-01 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 754

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2796

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PGOV, TH

SUBJECT: LOCAL COMMENTS ON DRAFT CONSTITUTION

FOLLOWING RECD FROM AMCONSUL UDORN, SENT BANGKOK, CHIANG
MAI, DATED FEB 19, 1974 BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL UDORN 52

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TH

SUBJECT: LOCAL COMMENTS ON DRAFT CONSTITUTION

REF: BANGKOK 2540

1. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBER PHAIROTE JIYASAK,
MANAGER OF UDORN BRANCH OF KRUNG THAI BANK, FEB 17 SAID RTG
WOULD PROBABLY SEND DRAFT CONSTITUTION TO NLA THIS WEEK AND
NLA CONSIDERING MEETING TWICE A WEEK, PROBABLY FRIDAYS AND
SATURDAYS, TO SPEED UP DELIBERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AS WELL
AS OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS. THIS ACCELERATED SCHEDULE MAY
PERMIT GOVT TO MEET ITS APRIL 15 DEADLINE TO PROMULGATE CONSTI-

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 02796 200410Z

TUTION AFTER ALL.

2. PHAIROTE AND NLA MEMBER SAISIT PHORNKAEOW, DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF KHON KAEN, BOTH INDICATED THAT ROLE OF SENATE WILL BE ONE OF KEY POINTS IN DRAFT CONSTITUTION WHICH NLA WILL DEBATE. SAISIT ALSO SAID HE FAVORS LOCAL ELECTION OF DISTRICT OFFICERS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, BUT INDICATED NLA UNLIKELY GO THIS FAR.

3. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, OFFICIALS AND FORMER MP'S WE HAVE TALKED TO GENERALLY WANT TO RAISE AGE LIMIT OF MP'S TO AT LEAST 25 AND FAVOR ELECTION OF MP'S AT LARGE IN PROVINCES RATHER THAN DIVIDING THEM INTO ELECTORAL DISTRICTS WHEN A PROVINCE HAS MORE THAN THREE MP'S.

4. UDORN GOV ANEX SITTHIPRASAT, ANOTHER NLA MEMBER, AGREED WITH SUGGESTION BY SUMALEE VIRAVAIYA IN FEB 17 BANGKOK POST THAT RTG SHOULD PUT OUT PAMPHLET LIKE FEDERALIST PAPERS EXPLAINING WHAT POINTS CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE HAD CONSIDERED IN DRAFTING CONSTITUTION. ANEK SAID THAT WHEN CDC CHAIRMAN PRAKORP PRESENTED DRAFT CONSTITUTION TO CABINET HE HAD DIFFICULTY ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS BECAUSE HE COULD NOT RECALL ARGUMENTS CDC HAD DEBATED IN ADOPTING VARIOUS ARTICLES.

5. PHAIROTE ALSO SAID HE EXPECTS THE NLA WILL PASS PARTY AND ELECTION LAWS QUICKLY AFTER THE GOVERNMENT PRESENTS THEM TO NLA. SAISIT SAID FEELING WAS THAT OTHER PARTIES SHOULD BE GIVEN AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE TO ORGANIZE TO ALLOW THEM TO COMPETE WITH DEMOCRATS. HE ALSO SAID THAT BUN JAROENCHAI IS NOT MAKING MUCH PROGRESS IN ORGANIZING CANDIDATES FROM NORTH-EAST.

6. SAISIT EXPECTS A LOT OF MONEY WILL FLOW DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HE NOTED THAT FORMER POLICE CHIEF PRASERT RUJIRAWONG HAD AMPLE FUNDS BUT HAD SO FAR NOT APPEARED TO BE ACTIVELY LINING UP CANDIDATES. SAISIT EXPECTS NORTHEASTERNS WILL ELECT MOSTLY "SOCIALIST" MP'S, I.E., LEFTISTS LIKE KHLAEOW NORAPATI. BROH-KAHN. GDS. UNQUOTE
KINTNER

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